

September 23, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**46th ANNUAL LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the proposed 46th Annual Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration program to be held Saturday, December 24, 2005 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, and authorize the Executive Director to make changes in programming that may be necessary due to production requirements.
2. Direct the Executive Director to implement all production aspects of the live and televised programs and to sign the necessary agreements with KCET-TV, Jeff Margolis Productions, and others as necessary.
3. Direct Five Star Parking to make free parking available to participants and attendees in the Music Center garage all day on December 24th. Lot 17 should also be available to accommodate any overflow. Appropriate signage regarding free parking should be posted at all entrances to the Music Center garage. Free parking is also needed in the Music Center garage for cast and crew during rehearsals from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on December 3rd and 4th and equipment load-in throughout the week of December 19th through 23rd from 7:00 a.m. to midnight, as

well as during load-out for crew, approximately December 26th through 28th.

4. Request the Music Center to make arrangements with the Music Center caterer to insure that Kendall's Brasserie and the Spotlight Café will be open for business throughout the duration of the program, and that any food/beverage items sold in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion be appropriate in cost and menu for the anticipated audience.
5. Request the Music Center to provide storage space at no cost for County owned set pieces (including choral risers and other set dressing), effective upon delivery this year and henceforth.
6. Direct ISD to load-in County owned set pieces at no cost between December 20th and 22nd as needed.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The first annual holiday program was held on December 24, 1959 and has been an ongoing community tradition for the past 45 years.

At their meeting on September 12, 2005, the Arts Commissioners unanimously approved the proposed roster of participants. The proposed roster is presented to your Board each year in compliance with a motion approved by your Board on July 12, 1983. Approval at this time is necessary to complete the program production.

Performers are selected through a competitive application process. This year 98 applications were submitted, 54% of them for the first time. The proposed program features a record 43 performing groups, 35% of them debut performances, and 53% youth groups. Altogether, this year's program will feature nearly 1,300 performers.

Selection criteria is based upon:

- Artistic excellence within a performance discipline/age category
- Suitability of the performance material to a multi-cultural, multi-denominational holiday themed program
- Suitability of the performance for the 2,600 seat Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and the technical capability of the production
- Ability of performing group representatives to meet all deadlines and to work cooperatively with other organizations and production staff

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The live audience for the 45th Annual Holiday Celebration last year totaled 6,600 and the broadcast ratings for KCET reached approximately 645,000 households, or 838,500 viewers.

Highlights from the 2004 production have been edited into a one-hour national broadcast that will air this December on PBS. In 2004, 120 member stations carried the national highlight broadcast, representing 35% of all PBS stations and 51% of all public television's audience. A total of ten broadcasts aired in six of the top ten dominant markets and two were in prime time.

The 2005 national PBS broadcast will be available for the first time as a hard feed on December 15 at 10:00 p.m. (check local listings), which means full subscribing member stations are almost certain to carry the broadcast as it is delivered to them as part of their PBS package of programming. As a soft feed, stations can elect to carry the broadcast and determine the time slot in which it airs as it suits their schedules. We anticipate the hard feed will result in more station carriage and a larger viewing audience. The Holiday Celebration will also be offered by soft feed as a pre-assembled package of several hours of holiday programming for Christmas Day, so it may air in many markets across the country twice.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence, as the program will provide the public with free access to a high quality cultural event.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The County's cost to produce this program is \$625,000: \$293,000 is from General Funds, and \$332,000 from the Cable TV Franchise Fund. Additionally, the Music Center contributes \$10,000 to the program and there is no fee for the use of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The American Federation of Television & Radio Artists waives 20% of the professional singers' and dancers' day rate and the International Association of Technical & Stage Employees and Professional Musicians Local 47 waive fees for the KCET broadcast on December 24th.

Funds have been allocated for this purpose by your Board as part of the approved Fiscal Year 2005-2006 budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

Not applicable.

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IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):

Not applicable.

Respectfully submitted,

LAURA ZUCKER

Executive Director

Attachments (1)

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Manuel Valenzuela, County Counsel
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
J. Tyler McCauley, Auditor-Controller
Stephen Rountree, President, Music Center
Dave Lambertson, Director, Internal Services Department

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION
PROPOSED 2005 46th ANNUAL LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
ARTISTS

*indicates groups new to the *Holiday Celebration* program this year.

(Office District-Member District-Performance District) – Applicants identify the County districts in which their offices are based, where the majority of their members reside, and where the majority of their performances take place.

Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers*, the renowned a cappella choir specializing in concert version performances of traditional African American spirituals will debut on the *Holiday Celebration* this year. (4-All-All)

Angahara Dance Ensemble will perform a classical dance from Southern India celebrating the Hindu God of the Earth, Ganesha. (3-All-All)

Antelope Valley High School Vocal Music-Travel Ensemble returns this year to perform *Total Praise* led by choral director John Crocker. (5-5-5)

Activities for Retarded Children and Adults (ARC) Handbell Choir, which has become an audience favorite and is featured in the 2005 national broadcast, returns to this year's local program with Christmas repertoire. (3-3-3)

Celtic Spring is a family of performers celebrating Irish traditional music and dance that performs lively medleys. (N/A-All-All)

Church of Scientology Choir will perform a festive rendition of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* in Dickens era costume. (5-All-1)

Compton High School Choir returns to the *Holiday Celebration* with African-influenced gospel repertoire. (2-2-2)

Elvis Schoenberg's Orchestre Surréal*, a Spike Jones-inspired big band, will provide eclectic arrangements to a medley of holiday inspired music. (1-All-All)

Escuela de Baile Tradicional Peruano*, under the direction of County DPSS employee Walter Almora, will perform traditional Peruvian folk dance of Cuzco, musically accompanied by members of **INCA Peruvian Ensemble*** singing in Spanish and Quechua, the language of the Incas. (3-All-All)

Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles will perform a repertoire that includes *Ocho Kandelikas*, a Sephardic Chanukah song. (3-All-All)

Gospel Music Workshop of America of the Antelope Valley*, a new choir of 50 voices, will make their debut *Holiday Celebration* performance with a six-piece band. (5-5-5)

Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company will perform with **Mariachi Nuevo Cuicatlan*** and feature folklorico dance of the Mexican coastal state of Nayarit by highlighting the rituals and customs of the state's indigenous Huichol and traditional mestizo cultures. (2-All-All)

Harmonic Bronze Handbell Ensemble features 11 to 16 year old musicians and will perform *Capriccio*, an energetic and rhythmic composition. (5-5-5)

Harmonies of St. Thomas Girls Choir consists of 23 vocalists ranging from ages 8 to 18. Most of the girls in this East Los Angeles-based choir come from Latin-American immigrant families and sing classical repertoire both in English and in Spanish. They have performed abroad and have collaborated with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. (1-1-1)

JazzAntiqua Dance & Music Ensemble will be commissioned to perform a new piece to holiday songs by the late Ray Charles. (2-All-All)

Jazz Tap Ensemble will perform new choreography featuring a combination of their company's professional dancers with several youth Caravan Project dancers and live musical accompaniment. (3-All-All)

Jubilant Voices of Holman United Methodist Church debuted last year and are highlighted in the 2005 national broadcast. They will return this year to sing their signature a cappella blend of classical and gospel repertoire. (2-All-All)

Kennedy Tap Company, a youth group, opened this year's national broadcast. They will perform a new, swingin' tap choreography. (2-All-All)

Kim Eung Hwa Korean Dance Academy will present Chang-go, a traditional Korean dance with hourglass shaped drums performed by 25 dancers. (2-2-All)

Korean American Music Academy is a youth choir that will perform traditional Korean songs, including *Arirang*. (N/A-All-All)

Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles, a school youth choir that specializes in French repertoire, proposes a song from the opera *Carmen* with piano and cello accompaniment. (2-3-3)

Long Beach Poly High School Choir* will debut on the *Holiday Celebration* this year. This advanced group of 40 voices will feature *A Prayer for Chanukah* in their repertoire. (4-4-4)

L.A. Music & Art School Children's Choir* is an East Los Angeles-based youth choir ranging from ages 5 to 14 that will make their debut on this year's program by performing a medley of Charlie Brown holiday songs by composer Vince Guaraldi. (1-1-1)

Manoochehr Sadeghi Ensemble, featuring the NEA National Heritage award winning Persian santur master, will perform an improvisational Persian-Latin flamenco fusion song called *Parvaneh* (Butterfly). (3-All-All)

Mariachi Divas, whose 2004 tribute to the late Celia Cruz will appear in this year's national broadcast, will return this year with a medley of popular American and Latin American holiday favorites. (5-All-All)

Mariachi Sol de Mexico, one of LA's premiere traditional mariachi (also featured in this year's national broadcast), will perform holiday repertoire sung in both Spanish and English. (1-1-All)

Opera California, a Korean-American youth choir of 85 voices with a live band, will return to the program with classical Western repertoire incorporating traditional Korean instruments. (2-2-2)

Salvation Army Tabernacle Children's Chorus, the largest and youngest choir on the program, is known for their fun "choralography" and light-hearted holiday songs. (5-5-All)

San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus members range from ages 8 to 18 and will perform *Peace in Twelve Languages* this year. (3-3-3)

San Gabriel Mexican Folk & Aztec Dance Company* will feature high school age folklorico dancers in their debut performance on the *Holiday Celebration* this year. Their choreography highlights dances from the Mexican state of Vera Cruz. (5-5-All)

Sierra Park Elementary School Folklorico with **Mariachi Cielo Nuevo*** from Middleton Street School will collaborate on performances from Jalisco, Mexico. This performance consists of 30 dancers and 22 musicians all under the age of 16. (1-1-1)

Soldiers on Soul Patrol, a predominantly Latino youth choir that specializes in performing energetic, original compositions is a past McDonald's Gospelfest winner. Their debut performance in 2004 was met with standing ovations and they return this year to reprise their show-stopping song, *Joy*. (N/A-All-All)

South Bay Children's Choir will feature both Christmas and Chanukah repertoire. (4-4-4)

Spring Autumn Dance Ensemble II* debuts on this year's program featuring 9 to 12 year old Chinese-American dancers performing a Mongolian dance. (4-All-5)

Three of a Kind* will appear for the first time this year. This a cappella trio sings in three part harmony in Tagalog, the native language of the Philippines. (N/A-3-All)

TRIP Dance Theatre, one of LA's premiere modern dance companies, returns to the *Holiday Celebration* with *Moonlight on Winter Ice*, a graceful piece with subtle Indonesian influences. (3-3-3)

Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus* debuts on the *Holiday Celebration* this year. Thirty-five male voices perform a cappella in barbershop style harmonies. (3-3-3)

Valley Beth Shalom Congregational Choir featuring **members of the LA Jewish Symphony** will feature *Aleinu*, a new arrangement of a prayer that closes Jewish services, and *Listen to the Candles*, a gospel-influenced Chanukah song. (3-3-3)

Viver Brasil Dance Company* makes their first appearance on the *Holiday Celebration* with new Afro-Brazilian carnival choreography featuring live music, and a vocalist singing in Portuguese. (3-All-3)